

APPROVED  
FOR ENTRY

JFV

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions of claim in this application.

1. (Previously presented) A vehicle frame, comprising:  
a first frame portion that comprises a plurality of struts associated with each other to form a first framework for supporting the frame, the struts comprising:  
a first strut,  
a second strut disposed lower than the first strut, and  
a third strut offset horizontally from the first and second struts; and  
a second frame portion separably associable with the first framework in a stiffening association for significantly increasing the stiffness of the first frame portion;  
wherein the associated first framework and second frame portion are configured for supporting a rider sitting on the vehicle frame and cooperatively define and substantially enclose an interior cavity therebetween, the first, second, and third struts being disposed around and defining a portion of the cavity, the interior cavity being dimensioned for housing a component of a propulsion system for propelling the vehicle, and the frame comprising attachments for supportedly connecting to wheels of the vehicle.
2. (Original) The vehicle frame of claim 1, wherein the first frame portion comprises at least one skin member structurally associated with the struts for closing at least portions of openings defined between the struts.
3. (Previously presented) The vehicle frame of claim 2, wherein the framework has a stiffness, and the skin member of the first frame portion is configured and associated with the framework for significantly increasing the stiffness thereof.
4. (Original) The vehicle frame of claim 3, wherein the skin member of the first frame portion comprises a plurality of skins coupled with the framework.
5. (Previously presented) The vehicle frame of claim 2, wherein the skin member of the first frame portion comprises a battery tray inside the interior cavity